



Ros Canter and Allstar B en route to third place, the best of the winning British Nations Cup team

Young Brits in pole position

Strzegom, Poland

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By Catherine Austen

THE British team won the Nations Cup in Strzegom for the second year running, led by strong performances from Ros Canter and Izzy Taylor, both of whom finished in the top 10 and on their dressage scores.

The Brits were fourth out of the eight teams after dressage, with Germany out in front. Ros and Allstar B were best placed in eighth on a score of 46.2, followed by Izzy and KBIS Briarlands Matilda, 11th on 48.5. Laura Collett (Cooley Again) and Holly Woodhead (Fernhill Facetime) were further down the field of 53, with marks of 58.3 and 59.2 respectively.

Michael Jung held the stage once again after the first phase, taking the top two places – and the only two sub-40 scores – with FischerTakino (34.2) and FischerRocana FST (38.3). The latter, winner of the Kentucky CCI4* for the past two years, was his Nations Cup ride. Germany only fielded three

riders in their team, as most of their top combinations had competed at Luhmühlen the previous weekend.

Sweden took second after dressage. Ludwig Svennerstål (King Bob) was in third individually with 40.5, backed up by Linda Algotsson and Fairnet on 44.3 for fifth.

Italy lay third, with Pietro Roman (Barraduff) and Stefano Brecciaroli (Apollo Van De Wendi Kurt Hoeve) in the top 10.

But all changed after a dramatic day of cross-country, which took place in 34°C heat. Izzy and Guy Avis' KBIS Briarlands Matilda scored the fastest round of the session, finishing clear and nine seconds inside the 6min 45sec optimum time, and Ros and Caroline Moore's Allstar B were also faultless. They moved up to eighth and fourth places respectively, while Laura and Maggie Sargent's CIC3* eight-year-old first-timer collected just 3.6 time-faults and rose from 26th to 13th. Holly was also clear on Carol Gee's 10-year-old with 10.8 time-penalties, and made the

jump from 31st to 18th place.

Michael Jung took both his rides steadily, and collected a few time-faults. This enabled a speedy Ludwig to take the lead on 18-year-old King Bob, 0.1 of a penalty ahead of Michael and his 2015 European champion FischerTakino.

The team 'nailed it'

THERE was less than a fence between Britain and second-placed Italy going into the showjumping. Both Ros and Izzy jumped clear, and Laura and Holly had a fence down apiece, while the Italians all faulted, giving Britain victory with a margin of 13.3 points.

Ludwig stayed on his dressage score to take the individual title, while Michael hung on to second – and was also fourth on FischerRocana FST. Ros moved into third between his two rides, and Izzy was sixth behind Italy's Pietro Sandei (Rubis De Preere).

"I'm so happy – I've had Bob for a long time; he's 18 now and he's a real champion in my eyes," said Ludwig.

"To beat Michi Jung on both

his horses is indescribable."

Ludwig's first choice for Rio is Aspe, who was clear inside the time across country but had three showjumping down.

British team manager Philip Surl said: "Strzegom has been a happy hunting ground for us," adding that they were keen to go before next year, when – it's a fantastic show, and we were keen to go before next year [when it hosts the European Championships].

"The course had been tweaked up a bit, and it was as technical a three-star track as you'll get. I'm immensely proud of the team; they absolutely nailed the cross-country." **H&H**

RESULTS

CIC03* Nations Cup – 1, Britain 160.6 (Allstar B/R Canter 46.2, 0.0=46.2; KBIS Briarlands Matilda/Taylor 48.5, 0.0=48.5; Cooley Again/L Collett 58.3, 3.6=61.9; Fernhill Facetime/H Woodhead 59.2, 10.8=70.0); 2, Italy 173.9 (Barraduff/P Roman 45.9, 12.8=58.7; Apollo Van De Wendi Kurt Hoeve/S Brecciaroli 45.1, 7.4=52.5; Querfou/JC Garcia 58.1, 4.4=62.5; Instigate Ohio/P Sandei 59.5, 6.8=66.3); 3, Belgium 238.7 (Grandioz/K Donckers 58.2, 0.4=58.6; En Silence Otrang/X Snackers 55.6, 25.2=80.8; Roudette W/L Madrenas 60.9, 30.8=91.7; Alpage D'Arville/L Deleckerke-Meier 64.2, R). **Indiv** – 1, King Bob (L Svennerstål SWE) 40.5, 0.0=40.5; 2, FischerTakino (M Jung GER) 34.2, 6.4=40.6; 3, Allstar B (R Canter GER) 46.2, 0.0=46.2.